GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3536
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
HAJ PILGRIMAGE
BABUBHAI KHIMABHAI KATARA;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received from Gujarat for Haj pilgrimage this year.

(b) The number of requests accepted and rejected out of them and the number of persons who undertook Haj pilgrimage this year;

(c) Whether an incident of stampede took place there.

(d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore,

(e) The number of the Indian Haj pilgrims died and injured in the incident; and

(f) The place where the last rites of those dead were performed and the manner in which that was done?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) A total of 7,783 requests were received from Gujarat.

(b) All the requests were accepted. However, 7,228 pilgrims undertook Haj pilgrimage and the remaining 555 pilgrims submitted their applications for cancellation of Haj journey.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The stampede occurred on March 5, 2001, at the `Jamarat` where the `stoning of the Devil` ritual is undertaken in Mina.It was due to overcrowding of the area by pilgrims who were also carrying baggage, thus slowing down their movement in and out of the area.

(e) Three Indian nationals died and five were injured.

(f) In accordance with the desires of the next of kin of those dead, they were buried in Mecca as per Islamic practice followed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.